Prior Authorization

This is a basic list of prior authorization (PA) contacts. Each program has different PA requirements, and providers must refer to the Medicaid manual for their provider type for specific requirements. Not all services that require PA are listed here; refer to the current Montana Medicaid fee schedule for your provider type for specific services that require PA.

PA Criteria for Specific Services

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements

• **All transplant services**
• **Out-of-state hosptial inpatient services**
• **All rehab services**
	Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation
	3404 Cooney Drive
	Helena, MT 59602
	
	Phone:
	(406) 443-4020 X5850 Helena
	(800) 262-1545 X5850 In/out-of-state
	Fax:
	(406) 443-4585 Helena
	(800) 497-8235 In/out-of-state
		• Required information includes:
		  • Client's name
		  • Client's Medicaid ID number
		  • State and hospital where client is going
		  • Documentation that supports medical necessity. This varies based on circumstances. Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation will instruct providers on required documentation on a case-by-case basis.

• **Transportation (scheduled ambulance transport, commercial and specialized non-emergency transportation)**
 	
(For emergency ambulance transport services, providers have 60 days following the service to obtain authorization.)
	Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation
	Medicaid Transportation
	P.O. Box 6488
	Helena, MT 59604
	
	Phone:
	(800) 292-7114
	Fax:
	(800) 291-7791
	E-Mail:
	ambulance@mpqhf.org
		• Ambulance providers may call, leave a message, fax, or E-mail requests.
		• Required information includes:
		  • Name of transportation provider
		  • Provider's Medicaid ID Number
		  • Client's name
		  • Client's Medicaid ID number
		  • Point of origin to the point of destination
		  • Date and time of transport
		  • Reason for transport
		  • Level of services to be provided during transport (e.g., BLS, ALS, mileage, oxygen, etc.)
		• Providers must submit the trip report and copy of the charges for review after transport.
		• For commercial or private vehicle transportation, clients call and leave a message, or fax travel requests prior to traveling.

PA Criteria for Specific Services (continued)

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements

• **Circumcision**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• Circumcision requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on medical necessity when one of the following occurs:
		  • Client has scarring of the opening of the foreskin making it non-retractable (pathological phimosis). This is unusual before five years of age. The occurrence of phimosis must be treated with non-surgical methods (i.e., topical steroids) before circumcision is indicated.
		  • Documented recurrent, troublesome episodes of infection beneath the foreskin (balanoposthitis) that does not respond to other non-invasive treatments and/or sufficient hygiene
		  • Urinary obstruction
		  • Urinary tract infections

• **Dispensing and fitting of contact lenses**	Provider Relations
	P.O. Box 4936
	Helena, MT 59604
	
	Phone:
	(406) 442-1837 In/out-of-state
	(800) 624-3958 In state
		• PA required for contact lenses and dispensing fees.
		• Diagnosis must be one of the following:
		  • Keratoconus
		  • Aphakia
		  • Sight cannot be corrected to 20/40 with eyeglasses

• **Prescription Drugs** (For a list of drugs that require PA, refer to the *PA Criteria for Prescription Drugs later in this chapter.*)	Drug Prior Authorization Unit Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation 3404 Cooney Drive Helena, MT 59602 **Phone:** (406) 443-6002 Helena (800) 395-7961 In/out-of-state **Fax:** (406) 443-7014 Helena (800) 294-1350 In/out-of-state	• Refer to the *PA Criteria for Prescription Drugs* table in this chapter for a list of drugs that require PA. • Providers must submit the information requested on the *Request for Drug Prior Authorization Form* to the Drug Prior Authorization Unit. This form is in *Appendix A: Forms*. • The prescriber (physician, pharmacy, etc.) may submit requests by mail, telephone, or FAX to the address shown on the *PA Criteria for Specific Services* table.

• **Maxillofacial/ Cranial Surgery**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• Surgical services are only covered when done to restore physical function or to correct physical problems resulting from:
		  • Motor vehicle accidents
		  • Accidental falls
		  • Sports injuries
		  • Congenital birth defects
		• Documentation requirements include a letter from the attending physician documenting:
		  • Client's condition
		  • Proposed treatment
		  • Reason treatment is medically necessary
		• Medicaid does not cover these services for the following:
		  • Improvement of appearance or self-esteem (cosmetic)
		  • Dental implants
		  • Orthodontics

PA Criteria for Specific Services (continued)

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements

• **Blepharoplasty**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• Reconstrutive blepharoplasty may be covered for the following:
		  • Correct visual impairment caused by drooping of the eyelids (ptosis)
		  • Repair defects caused by trauma-ablative surgery (ectropion/entropion corneal exposure)
		  • Treat periorbital sequelae of thyroid disease and nerve palsy
		  • Relieve painful symptoms of blepharospasm (uncontrollable blinking).
		• Documentation must include the following:
		  • Surgeon must document indications for surgery
		  • When visual impairment is involved, a reliable source for visual-field charting is recommended
		  • Complete eye evaluation
		  • Pre-operative photographs
		• Medicaid does not cover cosmetic blepharoplasty

• **Botox Myobloc**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• For more details on botox criteria, coverage, and limitations, visit the Provider Information website (see Key Contacts)
		• Botox is covered for treating the following:
		Laryngeal spasm; Blepharospasm; Hemifacial spasm of the nerve; Torticollis, unspecified; Torsion dystonia; Fragments of dystonia; Hereditary spastic paraplegia; Strabismus and other disorders of binocular eye movements; Other demyelinating diseases of the central nervous system; Multiple Sclerosis; Spastic hemiplegia; Infantile cerebral palsy; Other specified infantile cerebral palsy; Achalasia and cardiospasm; Spasm of muscle
		• Documentation requirements include a letter from the attending physician supporting medical necessity incuding:
		  • Client's condition (diagnosis)
		  • A statement that traditional methods of treatments have been tried and proven unsuccessful
		  • Proposed treatment (dosage and frequency of injections)
		  • Support the clinical evidence of the injections
		  • Specify the sites injected
		• Myobloc is reviewed on a case-by-case basis

• **Excising Excessive Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• Required documentation includes the following:
		  • The referring physician and surgeon must document, in the history and physical, the justification for the resection of skin and fat redundancy following massive weight loss.
		  • The duration of symptoms of at least six months and the lack of success of other therapeutic measures
		  • Pre-operative photographs
		• This procedure is contraindicated for, but not limited to, individuals with the following conditions:
		  • Severe cardiovascular disease
		  • Severe coagulation disorders
		  • Pregnancy
		• Medicaid does not cover cosmetic surgery to reshape the normal structure of the body or to enhance a client's appearance.

PA Criteria for Specific Services (continued)

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements

• **Rhinoplasty Septorhinoplasty**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• The following do not require PA:
		  • Septoplasty to repair deviated septum and reduce nasal obstruction
		  • Surgical repair of vestibular stenosis to repair collapsed internal valves to treat nasal airway obstruction
		• Medicaid covers rhinoplasty in the following circumstances:
		  • To repair nasal deformity caused by a cleft lip/cleft palate deformity for clients 18 years of age and younger
		  • Following a trauma (e.g. a crushing injury) which displaced nasal structures so that it causes nasal airway obstruction.
		• Documentation requirements include a letter from the attending physician documenting:
		  • Client's condition
		  • Proposed treatment
		  • Reason treatment is medically necessary
		• Not covered
		  • Cosmetic rhinoplasty done alone or in combination with a septoplasty
		  • Septoplasty to treat snoring

• **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Arthroscopy/ Surgery**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• Non-surgical treatment for TMJ disorders must be utilized **first** to restore comfort, and improve jaw function to an acceptable level. Non-surgical treatment may include the following in any combination depending on the case:
		  • Fabrication and insertion of an Intra-oral Orthotic
		  • Physical therapy treatments
		  • Adjunctive medication
		  • Stress management
		• Surgical treatment may be considered when both of the following apply:
		  • Other conservative treatments have failed (must be documented), and chronic jaw pain and dysfunction have become disabling. Conservative treatments must be utilized for six months before consideration of surgery.
		  • There are specific, severe structural problems in the jaw joint. These include problems that are caused by birth defects, certain forms of internal derangement caused by misshapen discs, or degenerative joint disease. For surgical consideration, arthrogram results must be submitted for review.
		• Not covered:
		  • Botox injections for the treatment of TMJ is considered experimental.
		  • Orthodontics to alter the bite
		  • Crown and bridge work to balance the bite
		  • Bite (occlusal) adjustments

PA Criteria for Specific Services (continued)

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements

• **Dermabrasion/ Abrasion Chemical peel**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• Services covered for the following:
		  • Treating severe, deep acne scarring not responsive to conservative treatment. All conservative treatments must have been attempted and documented for at least six months before medical necessity is determined.
		  • The removal of pre-cancerous skin growths (keratoses)
		• Documentation requirements include a letter from the attending physician documenting:
		  • Client's condition
		  • Proposed treatment
		  • Reason treatment is medically necessary
		  • Pre-operative photographs

• **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT 59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• PET scans are covered for the following clinical conditions: (For more details on each condition and required documentation, contact the SURS unit.)
		  • Solitary pulmonary nodules (SPNs) - characterization
		  • Lung cancer (non small cell) - Diagnosis, staging, restaging
		  • Esophageal cancer - Diagnosis, staging, restaging
		  • Colorectal cancer - Diagnosis, staging, restaging
		  • Lymphoma - Diagnosis, staging, restaging
		  • Melanoma - Diagnosis, staging, restaging. Not covered for evaluating regional nodes
		  • Breast cancer - As an adjunct to standard imaging modalities for staging clients with distant metastasis or restaging clients with locoregional recurrence or metastasis; as an adjunct to standard imaging modalities for monitoring tumor response to treatment for women with locally and metastatic breast cancer when a change in therapy is anticipated
		  • Head and neck cancers (excluding CNS and thyroid) - Diagnosis, staging, restaging
		  • Myocardial Viability - Primary or initial diagnosis, or following an inconclusive SPECT prior to revascularization. SPECT may not be used following an inconclusive PET scan.
		  • Refractory Seizures - Covered for pre-surgical evaluation only.
		  • Perfusion of the heart using Rubidium 82 tracer (Not DFG-PET) - Covered for noninvasive imaging of the perfusion of the heart.

PA Criteria for Specific Services (continued)

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements
• **Partial hospitalization**	First Health Services 4300 Cox Road Glen Allen, VA 23060 **Phone:** (800) 770-3084 **Fax:** (800) 639-8982 Fax (800) 247-3844 Fax	• A certificate of need must be completed, signed, and dated no more than 30 days prior to the date of admission. • The certificate must be completed by a team of health care professionals that have competence in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and the patient's psychiatric condition.
• **Prescription Drugs**	Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation 3404 Cooney Drive Helena, MT 59602 (900) 395-7961 (406) 443-6003 (Helena) Fax backup documentation to: (800) 294-1350 (406) 443-7014	• See the *Prescription Drug Program* manual for specific requirements.
• **Some Home Infusion Therapy Services**	Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation 3404 Cooney Drive Helena, MT 59602 (900) 395-7961 (406) 443-6003 (Helena) Fax backup documentation to: (800) 294-1350 (406) 443-7014	• See the *Home Infusion Therapy* manual for specific requirements
• **Eye prosthesis** • **New technology codes (Category III CPT codes)** • **Other reviews referred by Medicaid program staff**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section P.O. Box 202953 Helena, MT 59620-2953 **Phone:** For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call: (406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call: (406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state **Fax:** (406) 444-0778	• Documentation that supports medical necessity • Documentation regarding the client's ability to comply with any required after care • Letters of justification from referring physician • Documentation should be provided at least two weeks prior to the procedure date.

PA Criteria for Specific Services (continued)

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements
• **Therapy Services, Augmentative Communication Devices**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section P.O. Box 202953 Helena, MT 59620-2953 **Phone:** For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call: (406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call: (406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state **Fax:** (406) 444-0778	Medical necessity documentation must include all of the following: • Speech/language evaluation • The extent of receptive vocabulary stating how the testing was done • Description of how the client currently communicates (Indicate how the client expresses needs and responds to yes/no questions.) • Evidence that current speech is not an adequate means of communication and if improvement is likely • Results of a communication needs assessment • Evidence of the ability to recognize pictures represent a spoken word if a membrane keyboard is used • Evidence of reading/writing levels if a keyboard is used • Evidence that the client and communication partners can understand synthesized speech if the device has that type of output • Evidence that the client can see the device adequately for either letter or picture recognition • Evidence that the individual understands the cause-effect relationship on the use of a switch • Justification for the particular device recommended • Description of previous experience with a device • Projection of the extent of use of the device
• **School-Based Services Private Duty Nursing Services**	Medicaid Utilization Review Department Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation P.O. Box 6488 Helena, MT 59604-6488 Questions regarding this process can be answered by calling: **Helena:** (406) 443-4020 ext. 150 **Outside Helena:** (800) 262-1545 ext. 150 **Fax:** (406) 443-4585	The number of units approved for private duty nursing services is based on the time required to perform a skilled nursing task. • A prior authorization request must be sent to the Medicaid Utilization Review Department's peer review organization accompanied by a physician or mid-level practitioner order/referral for private duty nursing. • Prior authorization must be requested at the time of initial submission of the nursing plan of care and any time the plan of care is amended. • Providers of private duty nursing services are responsible for requesting prior authorization and obtaining renewal of prior authorization. • Requests for prior authorization must be renewed every ninety days during the first six months of services, and every six months thereafter. • Providers are required to send in prior authorization requests two weeks prior to the current prior authorization request end date for recipients receiving ongoing services. • Total number for units of service paid on claims must not exceed those authorized by the Medicaid Utilization Review Department. Payment will not be made for units of service in excess of those approved. • No retrospective prior authorization reviews will be allowed. • To request prior approval submit a completed *Request for Private Duty Nursing Services* form located in *Appendix A: Forms* of this manual and on the Provider Information website under *Forms*. Send completed requests to the contact shown in the second column.

PA Criteria for Specific Services (continued)

Service	PA Contact	Documentation Requirements

• **Reduction Mammoplasty**	Surveillance/Utilization Review Section
	P.O. Box 202953
	Helena, MT
	59620-2953
	
	Phone:
	For clients with last names beginning with **A - L**, call:
	(406) 444-3993 In/out-of-state
	
	For clients with last names beginning with **M - Z**, call:
	(406) 444-0190 In/out-of-state
	
	Fax:
	(406) 444-0778
		• Both the Referring physician and the surgeon must submit documentation.
		• Back pain must have been documented and present for at least six months, and causes other than weight of breasts must have been excluded.
		• **Indications for female client:**
		• Contraindicated for pregnant women and lactating mothers. A client must wait six months after the cessation of breast feeding before requesting this procedure.
		• Female client 16 years or older with a body weight less than 1.2 times the ideal weight.
		• There must be severe, documented secondary effects of large breasts, unresponsive to standard medical therapy administered over at least a six month period. This must include at least two of the following conditions:
		  • Upper back, neck, shoulder pain that has been unresponsive to at least six months of documented and supervised physical therapy and strengthening exercises
		  • Paresthesia radiating into the arms. If parathesia is present, a nerve conduction study must be submitted.
		  • Chronic intertrigo (a superficial dermatitis) unresponsive to conservative measures such as absorbent material or topical antibiotic therapy. Document extent and duration of dermatological conditions requiring antimicrobial therapy.
		  • Significant shoulder grooving unresponsive to conservative management with proper use of appropriate foundation garments which spread the tension of the support and lift function evenly over the shoulder, neck and upper back.
		Documentation in the client's record must indicate and support the following:
		• History of the client's symptoms related to large, pendulous breasts.
		• The duration of the symptoms of at least six months and the lack of success of other therapeutic measures (e.g., documented weight loss programs with six months of food and calorie intake diary, medications for back/neck pain, etc.).
		• Guidelines for the anticipated weight of breast tissue removed from each breast related to the client's height (which must be documented):
		Height — **Weight of tissue per breast**
		less than 5 feet — 250 grams
		5 feet to 5 feet, 2 inches — 350 grams
		5 feet, 2 inches to 5 feet, 4 inches — 450 grams
		greater than 5 feet, 4 inches — 500 grams
		• Pre-operative photographs of the pectoral girdle showing changes related to macromastia.
		• Medication use history. Breast enlargements may be caused by various medications (e.g., sironolactone, cimetidine) or illicit drug abuse (e.g., marijuana, heroin, steroids). Although rare in women, drug effects should be considered as causes of breast enlargement prior to surgical treatment since the problem may recur after the surgery if the drugs are continued. Increased prolactin levels can cause breast enlargement (rare). Liver disease, adrenal or pituitary tumors may also cause breast enlargement and should also be considered prior to surgery.
		• **Indications for male client:**
		• If the condition persists, a client may be considered a good candidate for surgery. Clients who are alcoholic, illicit drug abusers (e.g., steroids, heroin, marijuana) or overweight are not good candidates for the reduction procedure until they attempt to correct their medical problem first.
		• Documentation required: length of time gynecomastia has been present, height, weight, and age of the client, pre-operative photographs